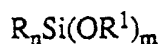


Claims

1. A process for treating a metal surface which is aluminium or an aluminium alloy in order to improve its adhesion properties which comprises treating a clean metal surface with an organosilane and exposing the surface to a laser which produces an elevated temperature on the surface of the metal.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which an organosilane is applied to the metal surface and the coated surface is then exposed to a laser.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2 in which the organosilane has the general formula I



where R is an organic group which may be reactive or non-reactive, R^1 is alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, or acyl, n is 1 or 2 and m is 2 or 3 such that $n + m = 4$.

4. A process as claimed in any preceding claim in which the metal surface is cleaned by degreasing with an organic solvent.

5. A process as claimed in any preceding claim in which the silane is used in solution in water and/or an organic solvent.

6. A process as claimed in claim 5 in which the said solution contains from 1 to 10% by weight of organosilane.

7. A process as claimed in any preceding claim in which the laser is a non-focussed laser.

8. A method of bonding a metal surface which is aluminium or an aluminium alloy to another surface which comprises treating the metal surface by a process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims and then bonding it to the other surface with an adhesive.